Strange and Bloody

# NEVVS
FROM
# FLEET-STREET

Being a True Relation of the

# MURDER
OF
## Sr. William Eſtcourt

of WILTSHIRE, Kt. and Barronnet:
On *Friday* Night, *November* the 14*th*. 1684.

SR. *William Eſtcourt*, the unfortunate ſubject of this diſcourſe, lived at *Newnton* in the County of *Wilts*; where he had a fair and pleaſant Seat, two miles from *Tedbury* in *Glocesterſhire* and eighteen from *Salisbury*; beſides a plentiful eſtate in other places: He was a Gentleman of a moſt obliging meen and behaviour, and of that Courage and briskneſs of temper that as the civility of his education forbid him to offer an affront to any; ſo a due regard to his own Honour alwayes prompted him to a juſt Vindication of his Perſon and Reputation. He was a Perſon highly eſteem'd for his Loyalty, and had the Honour of being both Knight, and Barronnet; and the loſs of him very much lamented by all Gentlemen, who were either his Neighbours or Acquaintance, to all whom the ſweetneſs of his Temper, his Courteſie and eaſie Addreſs rendered him no leſs dear than familiar. Upon a Tryal between two conſiderable Gentlemen at *Westminster*, the *Jury* were impannell'd out of the County of *Wilts*, all of them Gentlemen of Quality and Eſtate, of which he was Foreman. who having on *Friday* the 14*th*. of this Inſtant Dined at the Devil *Tavarn* near *Temple-Bar* in *Fleet-Street*; moſt of the Company adjourned to the *Globe* in the Evening, where about eleven a Clock at Night a Diſcourſe arose between Sr, *William Eſtcourt* and another Gentle-

Gentleman about Horſe Racing, in which they ſuddenly grew very warm, and ſmartly raperteed upon one another in Expreſſions, which ſo highly provoked their Paſſion, that in an inſtant the Candles were tumbled down, and the Bottles flew about, and ſo fierce and violent was their preſent fury, that notwithſtanding the reſt of the Company ( they being in all nine Perſons ) uſed their utmoſt Endeavours to prevent a miſchief, *Sr. VVilliam* flaggar'd to the Window and there was found gaping for life: upon ſearch he had four Wounds about him; one juſt by his Navel, and two or three in his Groin, his hand was cut as is ſuppoſed by his taking hold on his Adverſaries Sword who drew it threw his hand, and his Body was bruiſed in ſeveral places.

The Gentlemen were all apprehended by the *Conſtable*, who did not endeavour to make their eſcape, and on *Saturday* this 15th Inſtant the *Corronor* Impannell'd a *Jury*, who brought in Mr St. J----n Guilty of Murder, and Col. *VV.* acceſſary, *who were* committed to *Newgate*, and the other Gentlemen were diſcharged upon Bayl; and the Maſter and Drawers all examined by the *Jury* and all the Gentlemen in company apart, one after another, who were ſo ſurprized at the ſuddenneſs of the Action, that they could not give ſo direct and plain an account as might othervviſe have been expected.

The occaſion of this misfortune *was* not from any heats of Wine, for the *Company were* all very ſober, and all of them perſons *who* are not eaſily either prevailed upon by any Intemperance, or in the leaſt guilty of it; but the violence of paſſion does often force us upon thoſe Actions, *which* a more matured ſedate Temper *would* both avoid and abhor. It *was* a great misfortune to this *worthy* perſon to looſe his life in the prime and flower of his Age, *who was* beſides bleſſed *with* all thoſe *outward* advantages of Fortune, to render him compleatly happy, as far as a man is capable of it under that change and mutability of Circumſtances *we* are all ſubject too in this unconſtant World. He *was* contracted, and ſuddenly deſign'd Eſpouſals *with* a young Lady of Eminent Fortune and Quality, *whoſe ſorrow* is no leſs immoderate than her love *was* faithful, and affection conſtant.

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